

# FLORIDA ENERGY COMMISSION

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FLORIDA ENERGY COMMISSION ADVISORY GROUP ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION TO MEET IN TALLAHASSEE**

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Energy Commission’s Advisory Group on Energy Efficiency and Conservation will hold its first meeting from 10 a.m. until completion in Room 232 of the Holland Building, 600 S. Calhoun St. in Tallahassee.

Advisory group members will discuss energy efficiency and conservation in relation to the report the FEC is slated to present to the Legislature in December. There will be a designated period for public testimony on the agenda. The group also will address Florida’s current conservation efforts, and future efforts in relation to issues such as climate change and renewable energy.

“The term ‘conservation’ has become so broad that many are desensitized to it,” said Mike Hightower, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Advisory Group chairman.

“Energy conservation really means using less energy to achieve the same end-use outcome. There’s no way to discuss conservation without addressing renewable energy sources and climate change.”

This year, the FEC has met and worked with state and nationally renowned scientists and climate-change specialists, and with members of the general public. A common concern has been the cost of using more efficient methods of energy on both the supply and demand sides.

“Conservation is only effective when suppliers can profit from it and consumers can afford it,” Hightower said. “The right solution will incentivize suppliers and consumers to use their resources to conserve energy, and to protect the environment.”

The Advisory Group on Energy Efficiency and Conservation is using a public-involvement process that will ultimately produce for the Florida Legislature a set of efficiency-related policy recommendations, including draft legislative language.

**About the Advisory Group on Energy Efficiency and Conservation**

The Climate Change Advisory Group, one of four subgroups the FEC created at its inaugural Feb. 9 meeting, exists to help the Florida Energy Commission fulfill its charge to explore issues relating to energy efficiency and conservation in Florida, and to develop incentives and methods to encourage energy consumers to use energy more efficiently.

**About the Florida Energy Commission**

The Florida Energy Commission is a nine-member panel jointly appointed by the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives. It is charged with recommending to the Florida Legislature the best ways to secure Florida's energy future using the guiding principles of reliability, efficiency, affordability and diversity.

The Commission's immediate focus is on renewable energy sources, climate change, and conservation. But these aspects only comprise a few steps of our ultimate plan which will include generation and transmission to address Florida's long-term energy needs and goals.

By Dec. 31, the FEC will develop a report that will document its progress, and make the first of an ongoing series of recommendations designed to help guide the Florida Legislature in choosing best practices and options for Florida's energy future.

Visit the Florida Energy Commission's Web site at [www.floridaenergycommission.gov](http://www.floridaenergycommission.gov).

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